

Application No. 10/737,324

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-19 and 21-34 are pending in the application.

Claims 2, 14, 22 and 29-34 are now canceled; some of these claims may be submitted for prosecution in a subsequent continuing application.

Claim 1 is amended with basis at page 11, lines 1-23. Claims 21, 23 and 24 are amended to change their dependency.

I. APPLICANTS' INVENTION

The present invention relates to a removable device such as a stent-graft, intended for applications where it may be desirable to remove the device at some time following implantation. The stent-graft includes a helically-wound stent component provided with a covering of graft material having anisotropic strength properties. It is removable by gripping an end of the helically-wound stent component with a retrieval device and applying tension to the stent component in the direction in which it is intended to be withdrawn from the site of implantation. The use of such a retrieval device allows the stent-graft to be removed remotely, such as via a catheter inserted into the body at a different location from the implantation site. The design of the stent-graft is such that the stent component is extended axially while the adjacent portion of the graft separates between windings of the stent component. The axial extension of the stent component, with portions of the graft still joined to the stent component, allows the device to be "unraveled" (or "unwound") and removed through a catheter of diameter adequately small to be inserted into the body cavity that contained the stent-graft. It is removed atraumatically, without incurring significant trauma to the body conduit in which it had been deployed.

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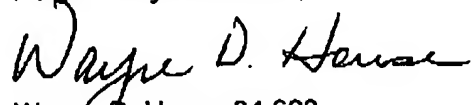
II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6, 8-19, 21-23 AND 29-34 UNDER 35 USC 102(b) AS ANTICIPATED BY SCHWARTZ et al., US PATENT 5,799,384 AND UNDER 37 CFR 103(a) AS UNPATENTABLE OVER VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF REFERENCES INCLUDING SCHWARTZ et al., US PATENT 5,799,384; BOSLEY, JR., US PATENT 5,514,176; SMITH, US PATENT 6,364,904; AND CULLY et al., WO00/42949.

Applicants respectively submit that in view of references submitted simultaneously with this response and with the amendments made to the claims herein, that the previous rejections are likely mooted. If any issues remain with respect to any of these previously considered references, either alone or in any combination with any other references, applicants will address those issues as necessary.

CONCLUSION

The applicants believe that their claims as amended are in good and proper form and are patentable over the cited art. As such, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration, allowance of the claims and passage of the case to issuance. If there remain any issues that might benefit from further discussion, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned practitioner; likewise, the Applicants request an interview if such issues may remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wayne D. House 34,623
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
551 Paper Mill Road
P.O. Box 9206
Newark, DE 19714-9206
(928) 864-2574

Date: 12 JAN. 2007